
APPENDIX 3 – RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following concerns and comments were documented during the scoping phase of the Environmental Assessment for the Upgrading of Visitor Accommodations and Employee Housing Facilities at Jenny Lake Lodge (Jenny LL) in Grand Teton National Park (GTNP). Each issue has been divided according to general topics, followed by a summary of the comment(s) and the response from the National Park Service (NPS).

Issue Topic	Comment (Paraphrased)	NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RESPONSE
Water Rights	The Office of Federal Land Policy commented that according to their records, only one water right exists in the proposed development area and that this does not appear adequate for the size of the proposed development.	An assessment of water needs was completed and is presented in the Utilities Analysis (Appendix 5, p. 43). The existing water right appears sufficient for average daily water use; however, the NPS may have to apply to the state for an addition right for use of water during emergencies. The decision will not be approved without further consultation with the State.
Cultural Resources	The Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) commented that no national historic sites will be affected by the proposed development, but requested that NPS and SHPO be contacted and construction stopped if cultural materials are discovered during construction.	This standard mitigation applies to all alternatives being considered, and as such it will be part of the eventual decision (p. 9).
Construction Impacts to Jenny LL Guests	Construction should not take place while Jenny LL is open to guests.	The descriptions of alternatives indicate that no major construction activities would take place while guest are staying at the lodge (p. 9-12).
Construction of Great Hall (now referred to as guest lounge)	Great Hall is unnecessary because the current Jenny Lake Lodge living room can comfortably accommodate guest's needs. Jackson Lake Lodge already provides large group facilities for Grand Teton National Park.	The purpose and need for action in Chapter 1 (p. 1-2) explains the proponent's view of the need. Alternative D provides an additional option to address this concern.

	Great Hall should not exceed 2,000 square feet and its use should be restricted to JLL guests	Alternative C was formulated to address this concern.
	Great Hall development is based on corporate profit.	This represents opinion of the commenter; no response is necessary
	Great Hall will negatively affect the atmosphere and character of JLL.	This issue is evaluated for each alternative in Chapter 4 under Cultural Landscape (p. 30-31).
	Great Hall is unnecessary and unwanted by guests and visitors.	This issue is evaluated for each alternative in Chapter 4 under Visitor Use and Experience (page 31-33).
Construction of Great Hall (Continued)	The addition of the Great Hall would allow the Jenny LL to host conferences, reunions, and weddings and such events are not in the best interest of GTNP.	The guest lounge in Alternative B and C would only be available for use by lodge guests and employees during the regular guest season.
	Jenny LL does not currently have adequate parking spaces for its visitors and mealtime guests. New parking will be paved, decreasing habitat and increasing guest capacity	The only new parking that will be necessary will be gravel spaces adjacent to the new guest cabins as discussed in Chapter 2 (p. 9-12).
	Great Hall will increase demands on the kitchen, which can barely handle the current demands of guests and visitors. The kitchen will have to be expanded.	Construction of the guest lounge will not result in additional loads on the kitchen because special events will not take place during the regular Jenny LL guest season.
Impacts to Wildlife	Great Hall will increase wildlife road kill related to large functions drawing additional visitors to JLL.	Impacts on wildlife are negligible to minor as disclosed in Chapter 4 (p.27-28)
	Wildlife inhabiting the JLL area will decrease due to increased activity.	See response above.
Impacts to Soils, Plant and Animal Habitat	Great Hall will negatively impact soils, plant, animal habitat and the environment.	Impacts on soils, vegetation, and wildlife are negligible to minor as disclosed in Chapter 4 (p. 23-28)

Increased Traffic	Great Hall will promote increased traffic, congestion, pollution, and paved areas for parking spaces.	Alternatives B and C will not result in increased traffic or a need for more parking. This issue is discussed in Chapter 4 under Visitor Use and Experience (page 31-33).
Non-compliance with the 1976 Grand Teton Master Plan (GTMP).	The GTMP states that visitor convenience facilities should be held at 1971 levels: The expansion of development at JLL would represent a new commercial activity that would be in conflict with the objectives of the master plan.	The visitor convenience facility at issue is the proposed guest lounge. In both Alternative B and C, the lounge is a service to existing levels of guest visitation and is not construed as a new commercial activity. Alternative D represents a choice that excludes the lounge.
Increased Noise	Great Hall will increase unwanted noise and ruin the peace and serenity of the area.	Impacts on natural soundscape are negligible to minor and are discussed for each alternative in Chapter 4 (p. 28-29).
Increased Drunk Drivers	Great Hall will increase the number of drunk drivers on GTNP roads.	Alcohol service at JLL will not change as a result of guest lounge construction. For special events during the shoulder season, a shuttle service will be available for attendees not staying at the Jenny LL (Chapter 4, p.31-33).
Cabin Relocation and Construction	Employees deserve better housing. The current employee housing is inadequate.	The purpose and need for action recognizes this condition, and, in part, that is why the proposed action was put forth.
	Cabin changes would minimally disrupt the area. The number of new guest cabins would not increase total guest capacity.	No response necessary
	Current cabins are adequate and therefore the proposed changes are unnecessary.	See Chapter 1, Purpose and Need for Action (p. 1-2)
	Construction of 5 new cabins will increase the overall guest capacity.	Overall guest capacity will not increase from the set 114 people under any of the alternatives (p. 9-12)
	EA must address increased sewer and water use as well as laundry impacts.	A utility analysis was performed as an adjunct to the EA (Appendix 5, p. 43)

Loss of one of the last pristine places.	People want to stay at JLL because it is not commercial, and affords quiet and tranquility. Proposed changes will ruin it, and JLL will lose its uniqueness.	This issue is evaluated by comparing the effects of a range of alternatives that provide for various levels of development compared to doing nothing.
Vail Corporation	Vail Corporation is only interested in corporate gain and profit and has already destroyed beautiful areas (Vail and Keystone). Do not let them do the same to JLL.	The decision-maker will evaluate the alternatives and their possible environmental impacts before making a decision.